

ABSTRACT

Disclosed is a multilayer film comprising a substrate bearing an aligned liquid crystal layer wherein the liquid crystal layer contains an onium salt
5 represented by formula (I):



I

10 wherein:

each R is an independently selected straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group or an aromatic group and b is 2, 3, or 4;

M^+ is a cation chosen from periodic group Va, VIa, and VIIa of the Periodic Table of Elements; and X^- is a counter-ion;

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provided the salt may be present as an oligomeric or polymeric form of the salt..